

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 17-18 are pending. Claims 1, 5-6, and 17-18 have been amended. Claims 1-10 and 17-18 are pending.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 1 has been amended as required to address this informality and overcome the rejection.

Claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese patent document JP 61053072 A in the name of Hayashi in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,624,836 in the name of Sakuta et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 5 recites an ink film supply system that includes, *inter alia*, a supply core formed as a single piece having first and second cylindrical ends. The exterior diameter of the second cylindrical end is greater than the exterior diameter of the first cylindrical end.

Hayashi (English-language Abstract) discloses an ink cassette that includes a supply shaft 18, both ends of which are fitted to support shafts 20. This construction allows for assembly of supply shaft to the ink cassette. Hayashi also includes a drive gear on the end of the take-up roller. Hayashi does not teach or suggest a supply core formed as a single piece with ends having exterior diameters of relatively-different dimensions. Hayashi does not anticipate or render obvious the invention recited in claim 5.

Sakuta et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Hayashi. Sakuta et al. discloses an ink cassette containing a supply bobbin 11 and a take-up bobbin. The supply bobbin 11 and the take-up bobbin both include geared drive-ends. An end of the bobbins

opposite the geared drive-ends is shown with a smaller diameter in FIG. 11. The Office action contains an assertion that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to include the invention of Hayashi (different diameters of roller ends) into Sakuta et al. The stated motivation for the combination would be to obtain an easily-aligned film supply cassette. Applicant urges, however, that Hayashi features a single external drive gear 21, which makes the cassette assembly eccentric. Consequently, Hayashi does not require additional facilitators for alignment, nor is such a need indicated in the disclosure of Hayashi.

Moreover, the design of the Hayashi device incorporates a set of three identical support shafts 20 (referenced above). The support shafts 20 fit into shafts 17, 18 to hold shafts 17, 18 within the cassette structure. The proposed modification based on Sakuta et al. to supply Hayashi with different diametrical dimensions for opposite ends of either of shafts 17, 18 is in no way suggested by the cited references, and would make Hayashi into a device unsuitable for its intended purpose.

Claim 5 is patentable over the proposed combination of Hayashi and Sakuta et al. Claims 6-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 5 and are patentable over Hayashi in view of Sakuta et al. for at least the same reasons.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Sakuta et al., further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,548,368 to Lee et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 10 depends indirectly from claim 5. Claim 5 is patentable over Hayashi in view of Sakuta et al. as advanced above. Claim 10 is patentable over Hayashi in view of Sakuta et al. for at least the same reasons.

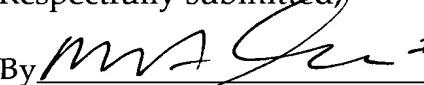
Claims 17 and 18 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 17 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Applicant notes that a non-English language document is relied upon in the Office action. Applicant requests a full English-language translation of the document as required by MPEP § 706.02 II.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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